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# The Highlander

Thursday February 18 2021 | Issue 478

**INSIDE: COVID BUSINESS ADVISORIES PAGE 19**

**FREE**

## Return to the slopes

Sir Sam's Ski/Ride reopened Feb. 17 for the first time since the lockdown began Dec. 26. Dozens of skiers and snowboarders were there for the first day on the slopes with freshly packed snow. Zach Shantz hangs in the air after lifting off a ramp.

Photo by Joseph Quigley.



## Cottage power rates set to escalate

By Lisa Gervais

Hydro One says more than half of its seasonal customers could see a \$650-a-year jump in electricity costs after the Ontario Energy Board approved the elimination of a special rate class for seasonal homes.

A spokesperson for the utility told *The Highlander* that in the coming weeks, the OEB will send out a notice to customers with details on next steps. There will be information on moving customers to one of the three residential rate classes, urban, medium or low density, and the projected bill impacts.

"We anticipate that 55 per cent of our seasonal customers, nearly 80,000 customers, will see an increase in their bills due to moving to the low-density class," the spokesperson said.

"This change could increase costs for a typical seasonal customer by \$650 per year in annual electricity bills."

The spokesperson said Hydro One does not profit from the OEB's decision, and has advocated for a different solution that would have reduced the bill impact for seasonal customers.

They added Hydro One has submitted an implementation plan to the OEB that proposes rate mitigation measures for customers who are expected to see a total bill increase of more than 10 per cent. Rate mitigation is a tool

Continued 'Cottagers' on page 2

## Sober man recounts 30 years of drug addiction and homelessness

### HIGHLANDER INVESTIGATES

By Joseph Quigley

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

As John "Buffalo" Killen stood amongst a self-proclaimed second family at Haliburton's Alcoholics Anonymous to receive his one-year sobriety medal, he was not shy about describing a troubled past.

It was an end to the 57-year-old's long road to stop a 33-year addiction to cocaine and a new beginning for the rest of his

life. His partner, Kathryn McLean, said Killen had gone through an incredible transformation since checking out of rehab December 2018.

"I'll continue coming every Sunday here. You won't take me away," Killen told the audience Jan. 26, 2020. "You guys have no idea how much it means to me. If you knew my past and what I'd been through, you'd be amazed."

Killen - now two years sober - describes his past as tumultuous. It is filled with years

running from the law, more than 14 years in prison, over 20 years of homelessness and a life-changing look in a mirror.

He was born on a reserve, near Kenora Six Nations, before moving to Port Credit in Mississauga. He said he did not know his parents very well as he grew up, as he was consistently away with friends.

He said he got involved with drugs when he was 16, working as part of a larger group of dealers. He began to start using illicit drugs as well.

Continued 'Killen' on page 15

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# Highlander news



Hydro One is notifying cottagers about pending changes in the coming weeks. Flickr.

## Cottagers' association to campaign against rise

Continued from page 1

used by the OEB to protect consumers from having large bill increases at one time – for example, by phasing in the increase over a number of years.

The OEB has yet to decide whether the change will take effect on Jan. 1, 2022 or later. It will hold a public hearing to determine the implementation plan. No date has been set.

Hydro One is inviting customers to have their say and provide feedback directly to the regulator by visiting [oeb.ca](http://oeb.ca) or calling 1-877-632-2727.

When asked about internal cuts to save money, the spokesperson said “Hydro One is continually looking inward to improve

productivity and take costs out of the system. In 2019, we saved \$202 million in productivity savings, which allows us to drive costs out of the system and enhance efficiency.”

In making the decision the OEB said its concern was that the distribution rates charged to seasonal customers are not reflective of the cost to serve them.

It said, “The OEB was aware that eliminating the seasonal class would cause bill impacts for Hydro One’s seasonal customers, and particularly would cause bills to increase for lower-use seasonal customers. The OEB directed Hydro One to bring forward a bill mitigation plan.”

The Federation of Ontario Cottagers’ Associations (FOCA), in a Feb. 9 update

to members, said the change affects almost 80,000 low-use customers, who will see their monthly bills increase by \$50-plus a month.

“FOCA has been an intervenor at the OEB for many years, and has been advocating against this significant bill impact,” they said.

FOCA is preparing to launch a campaign to stop the elimination, “because this change will result in the doubling of electricity rates for nearly 80,000 seasonal Hydro One customers and cottage owners.”

Long-time Kennisis Lake cottager, Tony Lepine, is worried about the impact.

He said it costs him about \$100 every winter for hydro when he’s not there — mostly for the delivery charge.

With the change, he estimates his bill will go up by \$60-70 a month, or about \$720-a-year.

“That’s a lot of money.”

Lepine said he will still use his cottage, but is considering going off-grid, noting that option is costly as well.

“I’m retired and there’s no way my pension will increase that much,” he said. “I’m lucky to get two per cent per year. This is a significant increase.”

FOCA is encouraging people to sign up for FOCA’s new dedicated electricity e-newsletter, called The Power Line. S

For more information, see: [hydroone.com/about/regulatory/oeb-applications/seasonal-rates](http://hydroone.com/about/regulatory/oeb-applications/seasonal-rates).



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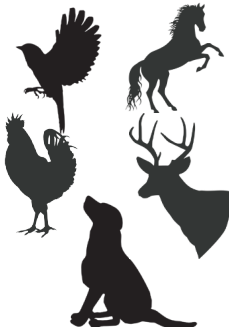
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# Highlander news



Dysart councillors said they have an appetite to address short-term rentals before the end of the term. *File photo.*

## Dysart eyes action on short-term rentals

By Joseph Quigley  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Dysart et al councillors want to address short-term rentals as part of efforts to improve service delivery.

Council combed through its service delivery review in a special meeting Feb. 16. The document, first presented by consultant StrategyCorp in September, highlighted seven key initiatives for the municipality. Those included recommendations to address short-term rentals, strategic planning, customer service, landfills, the sewage treatment plant, and digitizing the roads department. StrategyCorp estimated a potential for \$700,000 in new cash flow.

Council went through the next steps for each of the items. For rentals, they plan to have online platform iHost present about an online licencing system.

"My patience is up," deputy mayor Patrick Kennedy said. "There's a lot of work to be done, but I think the time for waiting is over."

StrategyCorp recommended some type of regulatory response to short-term rentals, whether through a licencing system, a municipal accommodation tax, or both, implemented between 2022-2023. It estimated an effort could bring \$75,000-\$268,000 in increased revenue to the township.

Kennedy has previously said it is an issue the County should take up, given the struggles all four lower-tier townships are having with it. But both Kennedy and Mayor Andrea Roberts said that is not happening. Still, Roberts said it is important to communicate with the other townships to ensure consistency.

Coun. Tammy Donaldson said she studied the issue extensively. She said licencing is not necessary and suggested providing homeowners with easy-to-access resources on municipal rules to provide to renters.

"Short-term rentals bring more people into the area," Donaldson said. "Licensing is not the answer to get the homeowners to comply, because the majority do a good job."

Coun. Larry Clarke said he gets more complaints on the issue than anything else and there is a concern with people purchasing cottages solely to rent them out.

"A short-term rental property that's primarily for that purpose, it is a business. It is not a residence. It has to be looked at differently," Clarke said.

### Making progress

Council discussed progress made in other areas of the review – and next steps for longer-term initiatives.

They intend to put more policies in place to standardize customer service response times. The digitizing of the roads department is underway, including a platform for online bids and tenders. A short-term waste management review was received by council in January from consultant J2PG with a subsequent education session to come. Recreation facilities and sewage treatment plant changes are longer-term projects without immediate plans, though a land donation for a possible site for a new recreation centre is processing.

As for strategic planning, CAO Tamara Wilbee said \$25,000 is budgeted this year. Roberts said she hopes the plan is finished by May 2022, before the election cycle.

Coun. John Smith raised the issue with getting a strategic plan in place so late in council's term, potentially restricting the next council.

Wilbee responded there will be a four-year planning cycle and an annual review of the strategic plan.

"It's a very live document. That's the intention," she said.

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## COUNTY NEWS

### Improving shoreline bylaw communication

County council voted for a new FAQ on its draft shoreline bylaw in a bid to improve communication about the document.

Council discussed the issue at its meeting Feb. 10. Staff are preparing a request for proposals (RFP) for a consultant to oversee the bylaw, which would restrict development within 30 metres of shorelines. Planner Charsley White said she expects to have an RFP ready to bring back to council within a month.

But Coun. Carol Moffatt said even with the bylaw delayed, the municipality needs to put out more answers.

"Just because the emails have stopped for the time being, doesn't mean the questions have gone away," Moffatt said.

White noted a communications plan was brought before council at a special meeting Jan. 27, with no direction given as council decided on an outside consultant. Included in the package was an info sheet with an FAQ featuring 10 questions.

Councillors reflected on communication efforts so far.

"I don't think we failed to answer. I think we failed to communicate," Coun. Andrea Roberts said. "We need to get on top of the information. We need to be the source."

Deputy warden Patrick Kennedy said he found the FAQ staff put forward inadequate, adding answers need to be simplified.

"I just find some of the answers ambiguous and really of no value," he said.

Council directed staff to prepare a new FAQ for the municipal website as soon as possible.

### Budget approved

The County is moving ahead on its 2021 budget with a 3.84 per cent increase on its portion of the tax levy.

County committee of the whole gave tentative approval to the budget, forwarding it to council for final approval later this month.

Warden Liz Danielsen said it was an increase she was comfortable with in a pandemic year.

"A good, modest increase," Danielsen said. "It is my fear in the next year, and following years, we're going to see some pretty serious impacts from upper levels of government and we won't be able to continue at this rate."

### Plan to improve tourism

The County plans to begin implementing its destination development plan this year,



The County is planning to start implementing a destination development plan, but much of the community consultation will wait until at least 2022. *Photo via County of Haliburton.*

though with many aspects waiting until 2022 to begin.

Director of tourism, Amanda Virtanen, presented a timeline for a five-year plan to improve the County's tourism capabilities. Several aspects to enhance branding are expected this year, but much of the community collaboration and changes to the destination experience will begin in 2022 or later. Virtanen said that is principally due to the pandemic.

Moffatt said the County would need to

be flexible depending on the state of the industry.

"Given COVID, is the community ready to do this work right now - or conversely, is it more important than ever that we do this work now? You can see it both ways," Moffatt said. "I'm glad that there's some work that's going to start."

Council voted to receive the report as information (*County news compiled by Joseph Quigley, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*).

## MINDEN HILLS NEWS

### Minden heads to fifth round budget talks

Minden Hills Council is heading to a fifth round of budget talks after staff came in at a 3.46 per cent levy increase for 2021 in fourth round deliberations Feb. 16.

That was up slightly from the third draft.

Staff were able to trim costs by delaying some hirings, in the building, bylaw and planning department and economic development and cultural centre. There is still a big jump in community services due to staff requirements at the new arena and community centre.

Another key area is roads. They have cut the debenture so annual payments will decrease to \$387,000 a year from \$705,000.

Coun. Bob Carter said he thought the only decision at this point is whether to do Bobcaygeon Road, at a cost of \$2.153 million.

Council directed staff to come back with how keeping Bobcaygeon Road in and taking it out will impact the bottom line, particularly for 2022, with the budget coming in under a four per cent levy increase.

It's expected council will finalize the budget by the end of next week.

### Minden household hazardous waste days

The Township of Minden Hills is changing up its household hazardous waste days this spring.

Council will hold days on Saturday, May 29, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., likely in the lower community centre parking lot. They'll hold another Friday, June 25, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., likely at the fairgrounds.

The township has historically held three-hour events in May, June, August, September and October in conjunction with Algonquin Highlands and using Buckham

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However, director of public works, Travis Wilson, said there had been traffic back-ups, it inhibits regular site use, not everyone could get in, in the three hours, the August event had poor turnout and people working weekends couldn't go.

There will also be events on the mornings, 8-11:30 a.m. of June 26, Sept. 11 and Oct. 9 at Scotch Line landfill. Wilson said the changes would cost an extra \$5,370, in the proposed budget. (*Minden Hills news compiled by Lisa Gervais*)

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## Survey says Minden landfills could do better

By Lisa Gervais

Minden Hills residents gave the township an overall grade of C- in a recent waste services survey.

Questionnaire results were presented to the Feb. 11 committee of the while meeting.

Manager of waste facilities, Tara Stephen, said they asked people: whether rules are easy to understand; trip is quick; access to diversion programs; site is clean and organized; hours are plentiful; staff are friendly and helpful; and disposal is low cost.

She said the C- was a disappointing score to her, and she and council would like to see an A or A+ "so, we do have a bit of work to do here."

In addition, people responding to the call for their opinion gave the municipality a D+ when it came to rules being easy to follow. Stephen said, "and we have some work to do here." She said in the past, rules have not been applied consistently and they have been working towards more standardized policies and procedures in the past year and will continue to do so moving forward.

Stephen said they had 429 valid responses, which she said was excellent for a community of Minden Hills' size. The survey was conducted last November.

"We garnered a lot of really thoughtful feedback from our community that I think are going to provide some excellent insights into our future planning over the next few

years," she said.

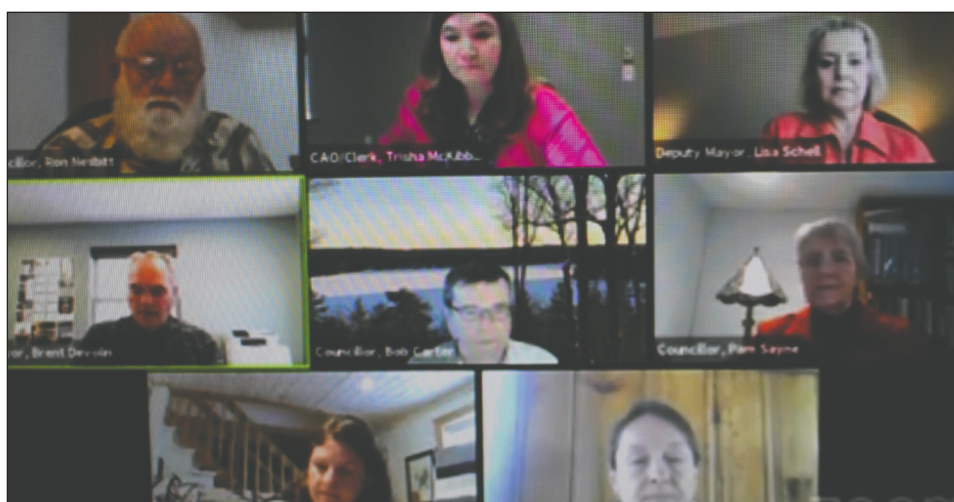
Stephen said 60 per cent of respondents were seasonal, 38 per cent permanent and two per cent businesses.

One of the interesting responses she highlighted was that 26 per cent said they planned to convert cottages to houses and move to Minden Hills full-time in the short to long-term. Fourteen per cent plan to do it in the next five years. She said it could impact demographics, shifting to more full-time than seasonal residents in future and that will impact waste services. She attributed this to people being able to work remotely; retirement; getting out of the city and COVID-19.

"As this population shifts for us, we just need to be aware, when we're looking at our waste services, about whether or not the services we are providing and the way we are providing them are still doing a good job for the type of community we have."

Stephen said only six per cent of people are taking advantage of the current three garbage bag limit, and the township could consider reducing it. She said it would help with diversion rates and the township could make money off people bringing three or more bags.

She said they also learned that people think the website is not useable, and information unreliable and disorganized. They've made improvements the past year, "but there's still room to do better." They were also surprised to hear that 25 per



Minden Hills council met via Zoom Feb. 11. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

cent of people get information by word-of-mouth and 10 per cent from other forms of social media, not township-generated. She suggested council go ahead with the annual waste guide and that an e-mail newsletter or email reminders might be helpful.

Stephen was, however, pleased that the public wants them to focus most on waste reduction and waste reuse. She said reduce is by far the most important of the three Rs.

"This shows that this community understands that hierarchy and understands that our most important next step is to reduce the amount of waste we're actually generating in this community before we start focusing on recycling."

She said other themes were: a need to improve the hazardous waste system; an interest in organic waste programs; some desire for curbside collection and collaboration with other townships.

Mayor Brent Devolin said with an overall rating of C- there is room for improvement.

"I think most of us that have been around for a few years, if we had done the same thing a couple of years ago, I'm not sure we would have even got a C- in this."

Coun. Jennifer Hughey said she wanted the survey results shared with the general public. "I think it's very important for people to be able to see this information."

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# Highlander news

## COVID NEWS

### 'Talk with the Doc'

Local residents are encouraged to attend an upcoming 'Talk with the Doc' virtual town hall being presented by the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit (HKPRDHU).

Acting Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Ian Gemmill, will host the session scheduled for Tuesday, March 2, from 1 to 2 p.m. He also held one Feb. 16.

In a press release, the health unit said Dr. Gemmill will provide COVID-19 updates and answer the audience's questions. Topics will include information on the local COVID-19 cases and transmission rates, the rollout of vaccines in Haliburton County, Northumberland County and the City of Kawartha Lakes, and HKPRDHU's ongoing pandemic response.

"We want local residents to be fully informed about what is going on in their communities when it comes to the pandemic," Dr. Gemmill said. "These virtual information sessions are just another way in which we can engage with our residents and be sure everyone has the information that they need to help to protect themselves and to stop the spread of COVID-19."

Gemmill said he felt the first session went well, with 150 people registering. He said he expects to run them throughout the remaining eight weeks of his tenure before Dr. Natalie Bocking takes over April 5.

To attend the session, visit [hkpr.ca](http://hkpr.ca). Participants can register and submit a question for Dr. Gemmill prior to the event. Once registered, participants will receive a link to join the session on the day of the event. Space is limited and available on a first come, first serve basis.

### Latest positivity rates

Haliburton County's most recent COVID-19 positivity rate is 1.15 per cent (for the period of Jan. 25 to Feb. 5).

In a joint press release from Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team, Haliburton County Paramedic Service and Haliburton Highlands Health Services, they said there was an average of 130 tests being completed each week during that time period. That was lower than anticipated as the Assessment Centre availability was reduced for a few days due to unforeseen circumstances.

The local health unit reported three new cases for Haliburton County within the same time period.

"It is important to note that the positivity rate still may not represent all positive COVID-19 cases in our community, but only those who are identified through testing at our local Assessment Centre," the release stated.

They added that some persons in our community who reside outside of Haliburton County borders may be tested at other locations, and would not be included in the Assessment Centre positivity rate or the local health unit total case numbers. Similarly, all cases reported through the local health unit for Haliburton County may not be included in the Assessment Centre



Elizabeth Inglis was the first Hyland Crest long-term care resident to receive the Moderna vaccine Feb. 10. *Photo submitted.*

positivity rate, as some tests may have been completed elsewhere.

"Our team strongly believes it is important for our community to be aware of the prevalence of COVID-19 locally, and encourages everyone to continue adhering to all the public health measures to help prevent further spread of the virus, in order to keep our community safe and to help protect our local healthcare system and resources," the release said.

### First COVID-19 variants

The first case of COVID-19 variant of concern has appeared in the health unit area.

The HKPRDHU received the test results Feb. 9 and has notified the individual who resides in Northumberland County.

Gemmill said Feb. 17 there are now two additional variant cases, but they are within the same household and under quarantine. The exact variant is unconfirmed.

They said the first individual had already been identified as a confirmed case and had been in isolation prior to receiving notification of the variant of concern. All of the person's high-risk contacts had also been reached previously and are in isolation as well.

"While it is unfortunate that we are seeing a case with the variant of concern, it is not unexpected," said Gemmill.

The three new variants, from the United Kingdom, South Africa and Brazil, have been identified as being a greater risk to people due to high rates of transmission.

Dr. Gemmill said it means it is more

important than ever that residents continue to be vigilant and follow public health measures to help stop the spread.

"Even though the provincial stay-at-home order has been lifted this week, I am pleading with people to continue to stay home to stop the spread," Dr. Gemmill said.

Gemmill said the U.K. variant could become the dominant strain.

"The way this variant is behaving," he said. "I'm not sure we're going to have control of it."

### Hyland Crest vaccines

HHHS said residents of Hyland Crest Long-Term Care home received the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine Feb. 10.

"The fact that this first round of vaccinations has been completed at Hyland Crest and Highland Wood has certainly helped lift the spirits of residents, staff, and families," said president and CEO Carolyn Plummer.

"We know we must keep up our strict infection prevention and control measures, but we could all use this dose of hope."

Dates for the second round of vaccinations for Highland Wood and Hyland Crest residents will be shared with families once that information is known.

Gemmill said the district expects a new shipment of vaccines next week, including 4,500 doses of the Pfizer vaccine. He said with local long-term care residents all vaccinated, they will start vaccinating staff and other healthcare workers.

### Outbreak over

On Feb. 14, HHHS received word from Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit that the COVID-19 outbreak at Hyland Crest had been declared over. The home was declared to be in outbreak Jan. 31, when two essential caregivers tested positive in routine mandatory screening. All residents and staff at Hyland Crest have since been screened with no positive results.

"Obviously this is a tremendous relief for everyone and a strong testament to the efficacy of infection prevention and control measures utilized by staff. All of the protocols we have put in place, and the diligence of staff in ensuring their implementation, are what prevented the spread to residents and staff. I have the utmost gratitude for the team at Hyland Crest and all of our staff across the organization," said president and CEO, Carolyn Plummer.

She added HHHS will continue to closely monitor residents and continue with rigorous infection prevention measures. Staff and essential caregivers, who provide important physical and emotional support to long-term care residents, will continue to participate in mandatory screening as directed by the Ministry of Long-Term Care.

Residents at Hyland Crest, who have been in isolation since the outbreak declaration, will now be able to resume socially distant activities within the home. (COVID-19 news compiled by Lisa Gervais and Joseph Quigley)



# Highlander news

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## Dysart agrees to boost roads funding in 2021

By Joseph Quigley

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Dysart et al council opted to spend an additional \$300,000 for 2021 road projects and washout contingency by drawing from reserves.

Council decided Feb. 12 to draw from a 2020 maintenance budget surplus to fund the initiative, placing \$225,000 in a development reserve for 2021 road projects and \$75,000 for roadside washouts. Council intends for the funding to help revert more gravel roads to hardtop, if possible. The funding is in addition to \$1.52 million committed in 2021 for road capital projects.

"It's really important we address some of these roads and start fixing them," Coun. Walt McKechnie said. "Just delaying it doesn't help."

The initiative should not impact the Dysart portion of the tax rate, which stands at a 1.16 per cent increase.

The resurfacing issue has dominated Dysart budget talks. Council is trying to make good on a commitment to revert hardtop roads the municipality previously pulverized to gravel, with priority based on traffic counts. In a report, director of public works, Rob Camelon, said the municipality did this on 37 kilometres of roads, with an estimated cost of \$3.3 million to reinstate.

The maintenance reserve from 2020 stems from relatively milder winter weather. Mayor Andrea Roberts and staff expressed



Dysart is close to finalizing its 2021 budget, with an expected 1.16 per cent tax rate increase. *File photo.*

some concern about not putting more into maintenance for worse seasonal weather in the future.

"We often hear about the 100-year storm," treasurer Barbara Swannell said. "The 100-year storm is just a term. The reality is those 100-year storms are happening much quicker."

Coun. John Smith said it made sense to put less into reserve transfers this year.

He said the municipality has plenty of borrowing capacity for a "100-year storm."

"The problem with the reserves is we're taking that from the taxpayers," Smith said. "Some of whom need it."

He later noted transfers are still solid in other areas such as the working fund reserve, given a \$545,660 2020 budget surplus. Roberts said the municipality would have been in a deficit position

were it not for the provincial Safe Restart funding.

With budget talks nearing completion, Roberts expressed pride in the draft.

"(Roads) is our biggest expenditure that we have control over. It is where we're really trying to put tax dollars and use them well and wisely," Roberts said. "I feel that we're really, really making progress here in Dysart."



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# Editorial opinion

## TheHighlander

Published by The Highlander Newspaper Limited

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To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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## Doing the reopening dance

Balancing our collective desire to stay healthy with our instinct to want to support our local businesses can be a tricky dance.

We've taken to the floor again this week, but unlike the summer reopening, we've now got three new strains of the Coronavirus to contend with.

At a time when we're all weary of this pandemic, we have to challenge ourselves to be even more vigilant in order to stave off the predicted third wave.

As most of you know, our health unit area is categorized as orange. That means we have been able to return to local restaurants for in-person dining. Gyms and fitness clubs are getting back to in-studio training. We can go back to retail stores. We can get our hair cut. Some small-scale entertainment can begin again. We can get together with family and friends - up to 10 people indoors and up to 25 outdoors.

But just because we can, doesn't mean we should.

Acting medical officer of health, Dr. Ian Gemmill, said although the stay-at-home order has been lifted, we still have a moral obligation to do all that we can to stop the spread. He is pleading with people not to gather with others and to continue to stay home and only go out for essential reasons.

He points out the new variants are more easily spread and have just made their way into our health unit area. He is worried about them contributing to sudden surges locally.

Dr. Nell Thomas provides a very good overview of the three new variants in Covid Corner (below).

They have become a game changer. They have altered the battlefield. If you've had COVID-19, there's no guarantee you can't get one of the variants. Labs have had to change their analysis of swabs. All positive tests are being checked for the variants.

The good news, according to Dr. Thomas, is the current vaccines should still be fairly successful in fighting off both COVID-19 and its variants. And more companies are developing new vaccines. In other words, there is a light at the end of the tunnel. Now, we just have to make sure our community gets through that tunnel.

While in many ways, choosing how you support the economy is a personal decision, we urge locals to keep community in mind in their choices.

For example, you can dine-in, but the business will make just as much money or more if you opt for takeout.

We don't know of many local churches

that are opening their doors, even though they can. There continue to be very few weddings. For some, being able to have a small gathering of a celebration of life may take precedent. Being able to go into retail shops, versus ordering online and doing curbside pickup, is certainly more convenient for many of us. Some of us badly need a haircut.

So, do those things if you must. However, to repeat what we now hope is the obvious: masks must be worn, people need to stay two metres apart from anyone who is outside of their household, wash those hands.

And perhaps most importantly, if you are serious about boosting the local economy, stop with the Amazon and other out-of-town orders and confine your spending to Haliburton County. Don't view this as a green light to jump in the car and head to Huntsville, Bancroft, Bracebridge, Lindsay and Peterborough.



By Lisa Gervais

## COVID CORNER

# Understanding the variants

Viruses mutate. It's what they do. It's one reason why we have never had a vaccine to protect us from the "common cold," which is a coronavirus. It's why many people initially said there could never be a successful vaccine for SARS-CoV-2. How can we stay ahead of a virus that is continually altering itself? The answer is: vaccines with boosters, annual vaccines, and continual surveillance of virus mutations. We know how to do this.

When a virus mutates, there are several potential results. Sometimes the mutations make it spread more easily. Or it may become more deadly, or perhaps less deadly. SARS (2003) was a more deadly virus. It was therefore easier to recognize because when individuals were infected they became obviously sick. It had a higher death rate. These factors made it easier to quarantine and stop spread. It ultimately affected 29 countries - 8,098 individuals with 774 deaths - with a case fatality rate [CFR] of 9.6 per cent, higher than 15 per cent in older age groups. SARS-CoV-2 has a CFR range of 0.25-3 per cent, variable by age group (higher in elderly).

If a virus is so deadly that it kills its host, then it cannot replicate, and it eventually peters out. It needs you alive to spread it to others. Unfortunately, SARS-CoV-2 is learning to make itself capable of affecting more people more quickly.

There are more than 100 identified mutations since the pandemic began in 2019, but only a few have led to the three identified "variants of concern." One mutation is N501Y and it allows the virus to spread more easily. Another mutation, E484K, is affecting the spike protein of the virus. That is the part of the virus that our vaccines identify as they alert our immune systems to attack this foreign intruder. The same change is occurring in the British, South African and Brazilian variants. It is an "escape mutation" which means it allows the virus to slip by without alerting our antibodies. E484K mutation makes it harder for us to be confident our vaccines can accomplish their job. It also means that if you've had COVID-19 already, your natural immunity to that version of the virus, if still lingering, may not protect you from these new variants. The mutation has also affected the tests we use for detecting the virus. For this reason, the laboratory analysis used on our swabs has been adjusted.

These are the three major known variants that are worrying scientists: The South African variant, known as B.1.351; the UK variant, known as B.1.1.7; and a Brazilian variant known as P.1. They are all circulating in Ontario. As of Feb. 11, HKPR District Health Unit is now ensuring that all positive COVID-19 swabs are tested for the

variants.

The vaccines currently approved for use in Canada have such high effectiveness (90-95 per cent) that their clinical effect against the variants of concern is considered sufficient to continue their use. The Astra Zeneca vaccine awaiting approval here is 63 per cent effective against the original strain. Evidence from community surveillance suggests there is vaccine protection against severe cases of the disease variants and therefore the WHO currently recommends the use of Astra Zeneca (AZD1222) vaccine as well.

The next vaccine in the queue for us is likely Johnson and Johnson. It is a single dose and has 85 per cent efficacy (57 per cent protection in South Africa). Moderna is testing an additional booster (third shot) as they update vaccine formulations. Novovax is 85.6 per cent effective against the UK strain, 95.6 per cent effective against the original strain and 60 per cent effective against the South African strain.

There are updated vaccine formulations and delivery methods that are being tracked on both the CDC genomic surveillance dashboard and the CDC variants tracker.



By Dr. Nell Thomas

**HAVE AN OPINION? Send your letters to [editor@thehighlander.ca](mailto:editor@thehighlander.ca) (300 words max)**



# Editorial opinion

## LETTERS

### We can get to a new normal

*Dear editor,*

After the January spike, the number of new COVID cases in Ontario (and across Canada) has come steadily down. But what caused that drop? Was it the Stay-at-Home edict, the expected drop after the Christmas and New Year jump or the lucky horseshoe in my garage? I'm kidding about the horseshoe but not about the other two reasons. Which of those was responsible?

If one looks at the similar infection downturn in the USA, where restrictions are haphazard and poorly enforced, there was a very natural drop after the holiday socializing period subsided. No Stay-at-Home order needed.

Of course, Doug Ford will say that his province-wide, Stay-at-Home plan was effective even though the results of the lockdowns proved otherwise. Toronto and Peel were locked down in November. Their number continued to rise. On Boxing Day the whole province was locked down. The number still rose. The only result of the lockdowns was an increase in mental health issues and a collapse of the economy in the lockdown regions. How many additional millions of commerce were lost in that superfluous province-wide closure after Christmas?

Quebec and Alberta will soon show that societies can be safely opened up if the operating restrictions and behavioural norms are clearly explained and monitored. Most people are used to wearing masks and keeping a safe distance apart. Businesses will enforce sensible operational rules if it means that they can open up. Life can return to a new normal when common sense is used. Isn't it time to start treating adults like adults and look closely at workplaces (where most viruses are spread) and ease up on the lockdowns?

There is one more point to consider. Since COVID is mainly spread in indoor settings, the key going forward (aside from masks, hygiene and distancing) is improved ventilation systems. This change will reduce infections from this virus as well as mitigate problems with any mutations, new viruses, the annual influenza and Legionnaires Disease. More emphasis must be placed on this winning additional measure. Hopefully governments will see the light. Until that happens we will be forced to merely hope that sensible behaviour, the vaccines and spring weather will squelch a third wave.

**Dennis Choptiany**

*Markham/Haliburton County cottager*

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Manny Lawson captured this image of a Barred Owl on Precipice Road off Long Lake.

## Local businesses need our support

**By Jack Brezina**

It has been a year since we became aware of the pandemic that was about to sweep across the globe. Since then, many people have personally felt the impact of the coronavirus. We hear the statistics daily on the news and see victims and their loved ones profiled to provide a reality showing the people beyond the numbers.

Here in the Highlands, we have been relatively fortunate to have avoided the most severe aspects of the human toll this virus has taken. Far from the densely populated centres and with the more open spaces, we have been able to avoid the worst of the contagion. For the most part Highlanders have observed the rules designed to help contain the virus. It stands out when we see someone not wearing a mask in a location where he/she

should. The often awkward but necessary distancing is being observed and, among other precautions, the restrictions imposed on businesses and gatherings have been adhered to.

That final point was brought home to me recently when I drove down the main streets of Minden and Haliburton on what would normally be a bustling commercial day. Especially in the last few weeks, during the lockdown, it looked like a Sunday morning at 7 o'clock. There was just a smattering of cars parked on the street in front of the few businesses that were open. Peering into the stores, I could see the darkened interiors behind the locked doors. Even those allowed to be open appeared to have fewer customers than they would normally. Those allowed to provide curb-side pickup were equally challenged to attract the usual flow

of commerce.

As the restrictions start to lift this week and everyone attempts to return to a modicum of normality, it would be a good time for the community to recognize the sacrifice our local merchants have made to keep us safe. Writing off a month's worth of business, even at this quieter time of the year, is a major financial hit. It will be hard, if not impossible to recoup that missed income. Equally so, the staff in those establishments have borne the impact as well.

One thing, not always obvious in so-called normal times, became starkly evident during the lockdown: the business community is one of the defining features of life here in the Highlands. The businesses are part of the warp and weft that give our villages character. In addition to being the

commercial enterprises, businesses support local causes, sponsoring sports teams, the arts, charities, service clubs and various associations. They employ our neighbours.

Now, more than ever, they deserve our support.

As we hopefully return to something like normal, when you feel comfortable doing so, make a point of patronizing our local businesses and let them know you appreciate what they have done in the past and you are looking forward to continuing to do business with them into the future.

We may not be over this yet, but if the vaccines can get ahead of the variants, there will be a better tomorrow just down the line. Doing whatever you can to buoy the spirits and bottom line of our local businesses will be one of those signals that things are indeed on the mend.



# Highlander business

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The Haliburton BIA is reducing its levy for the first time in years due to the pandemic. *File photo.*

## Haliburton BIA reduces rates

**By Joseph Quigley**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Haliburton BIA is reducing its levy five per cent due to the impact of the pandemic.

The BIA announced the measure at its annual general meeting Feb. 11. President Luke Schell said it is due to the pandemic cancelling the organization's usual events, leaving them with an \$18,000 surplus in 2020. In total, the BIA will collect \$45,000 in 2021, down 11 per cent from \$49,980 the previous year.

Schell said the reduction could carry on beyond 2021 as well.

"It's been a strange year," Schell said. "We will reduce it over the next couple of years – partly because we just don't know what's going to happen."

The BIA is still budgeting for its usual slate of events in 2021 – including Frost Fest, Colour Fest, the Santa Parade and Ladies Shopping Night. But treasurer Nelly Ashworth said the levy could decrease

again if those events cannot go ahead.

"Slowly, once we hopefully get out of this and life's going to come back to relatively normal, we can slowly increase it again should need be," Ashworth said.

However, she noted the BIA was still able to do other things in the pandemic such as increasing its advertising and Buy In and Win contest funding.

In an address, Mayor Andrea Roberts said it has been a difficult year for the downtown.

"I do want to share with you at this time how proud I am of how the businesses in the downtown BIA have adapted and accommodated and shifted in this everchanging world of the pandemic," she said. "Some of you are busier than you've ever been and some of you are hurting immensely."

She added the municipality did start a recovery committee, but it is not meeting right now because "we're not in recovery mode." But she said they would inform the

BIA when the committee reconvenes to discuss how to help local businesses.

Schell said one of the more successful BIA initiatives was working with the municipality to expand downtown patios in the summer due to pandemic restrictions.

"Really appreciated having the municipality fast track that," Schell said.

He added the BIA will likely do it again this summer. However, he noted it is a debatable subject and there are liability concerns.

"But I think most people are pretty happy with that kind of service on main street," Schell said.

The BIA board once again remained mostly static. There was only one change – Upriver Trading Co. owner Mike Mckeon replacing Sharon Rowden.

"I know that we all enjoy serving our community in this fashion and we look forward to spending another year here," Schell said. "Hopefully, 2020 is hindsight."

## Real estate market expected to continue sizzle

**By Lisa Gervais**

The Lakelands Association of Realtors says buyer demand for more green space and a desire to relocate to regions outside of the Greater Toronto Area, including cottage country, skyrocketed in 2020 – a trend expected to continue in 2021.

"The market was quite feverish throughout Parry Sound, Muskoka, Haliburton and Orillia," said association board president, Chuck Murney, in a press release. "Across all regions, averages went up. The average number of sales rose 21 per cent. We saw a 42 per cent increase in waterfront properties sales, and the average sale price jumped 27

per cent," Murney said.

The association represents more than 800 realtors in the four regions. "All offer the wide-open spaces, larger properties and access to nature that people were seeking, in most cases only a couple of hours away from the GTA," he said.

Andrew Hodgson, a broker of record who represents the Haliburton region on the association board, saw the shift firsthand.

"All sectors saw incredible growth as people flocked to Haliburton County as a place to live and work," he said. "Haliburton County experienced an incredible year for real estate in 2020. After losing the spring market, we more than

made up for it with a 40 per cent increase in sales volume for waterfront properties and 32 per cent increase in sale volume for non-waterfront."

Looking ahead to how 2021 will turn out, Hodgson predicted the demand will only continue given the appeal of the region.

"I see another very active market, especially in the spring. We have the perfect community to attract people looking for a part-time or a permanent home. The trend of leaving urban areas, working from home, boomers relocating and downsizing, have all set us up for a very positive short-and long-term future," Hodgson said.



# Highlander business

## Centre lake development launches consultation

By Joseph Quigley

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Granite Shores is holding an online public consultation for a massive new cottage and resort development it is proposing on Centre Lake utilizing Crown Land.

The development launched a website to engage the public on the project, which is proposed to include a 60-suite resort and wellness spa, 28 cottage lots and a commercial area tapping into the maple trees in the area. The developer seeks to utilize a 200-foot Crown reserve along the lake. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has agreed to move forward with disposing of the land after a consultation process.

Public engagement manager, Steven Megannety, said they are responding to some Highlands East council concerns at a Dec. 15 meeting about ensuring a strong public consultation process.

"We want to make certain that there's robust consultation," Megannety said. "We figured that the best way to do it was to put all the information out there and say, 'here's what the project is'."

The website includes an FAQ and summary of the project. It also has a series of reports, including applications, planning, economic and environmental analysis. Megannety said they made the website of their own volition, separate from any government plans for consultation. They

have already had more than 70 responses.

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry regional planner, Pauline Capelle, said the provincial consultation on proposed policy amendment to consider the sale of the Centre Lake Crown reserve is still to come. She said the timing of the consultation is difficult to predict but it should be posted in the coming months. Anyone interested in being added to a mailing list for that can contact pauline.capelle@ontario.ca.

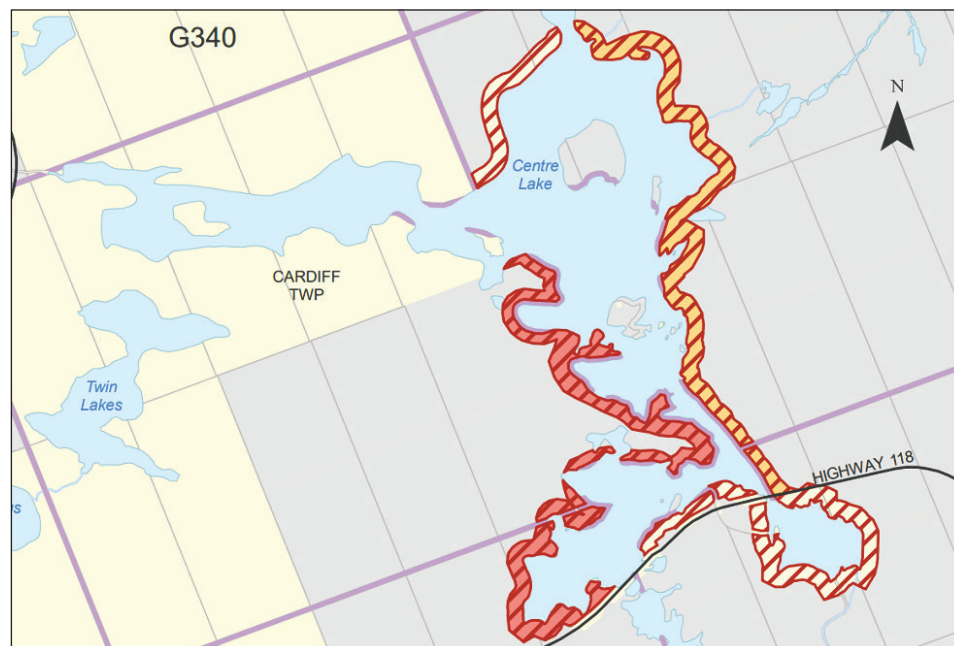
The developers estimate about \$40 million in new economic activity in the region, 75 construction jobs and 30-50 new jobs after the project finishes. Megannety said they are also consulting with Indigenous peoples in the area and plan to allot a parcel in the commercial area for them.

Megannety said Granite Shores conforms to County and official plans. The developers are assuring public access to the lake will be maintained – with plans to create a new access road and improve the existing boat launch point.

But councillors have said there is some public concern. Jacqueline Ziorjen has frequented the area for many years. She said the lake is an oasis and called it "heart-wrenching" to see it developed.

"These wonderful places we can access are being developed, so they lose the charm," she said.

She added even if Granite Shores can



Centre Lake Developers have launched a public consultation website for a development proposed on Crown land. *File photo.*

maintain accessibility, the extra traffic could mean the spot is never the same.

Regardless of whether the Granite Shores is successful in getting Crown Land, Megannety said they plan to go ahead with privately-owned land nearby. He also said a new County bylaw in the works to restrict development within 30 metres of shorelines would also not stop the development, though added they are watching the bylaw

closely.

Megannety said they hope to be in the final planning stages by the end of the year.

"We're trying to come up with some solutions that make sense," he said. "Obviously for the development, but also for the community."

The consultation is available at [letstalkcentrelake.ca](http://letstalkcentrelake.ca).

The Highlander is pleased to announce it has been named a finalist in eight categories in the Ontario Community Newspaper Association's annual awards.

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# Highlander education

## SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

### Board plans for next school year

Staff and trustees began to focus on the 2021-2022 school year at the Feb. 9 Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) committee of the whole meeting.

Superintendent of Learning, Katherine MacIver, presented the school calendar, which will be submitted to the province later this year. She said it was created with COVID in mind.

"September is a late start and to get the 197 days we will be in school until the end of June. We have divided the year into equal halves and blocked all the professional learning days so that the calendar can accept octoblocks or quadesters easily," she said.

At high school, octoblocks involve taking one course a day all day for 22 days. Two subjects are taken in a quadsemester in an alternating week schedule. Students study one subject all day every day during week one and the other subject all day every day during week two for half of a traditional semester. Both are attempts to keep students in cohorts and limit their interaction with other students.

Student trustee, Ryder Lytle, asked if octoblocks were a given for 2021 and MacIver said they were not.

Meanwhile, the board predicts its enrollment will remain relatively stable for September 2021, estimating 16,093 students.

Superintendent of Finance, Tim Ellis,

told trustees "they (senior staff) tend to be conservative on their estimates and would rather add staff in the fall than have to release staff if the projected students do not materialize."

### Planned works in schools

Ellis presented the board building and renewal plan for 2021, calling it "a little ambitious."

In 2020, the board spent \$10 million on buildings, while in 2021 they would like to allocate \$19 million with more than 40 schools needing at least some work.

"We would prefer to have only 20-25 projects a summer to focus on," Ellis told trustees.

He said many of the 2021 projects are small, involving painting and upgraded security doors and door fobs. "In the future we want to focus on fewer schools in need of bigger projects," he said.

Haliburton trustee Gary Brohman wanted more information on the numerous washroom renovations planned for the summer of 2021.

Ellis said they needed to increase accessibility. He said the new facilities will be doorless and clean and fresh looking. The board is also looking at creating separate gender-neutral washrooms as part of schoolwide renovations.

Ellis highlighted attempts by the board to be environmentally-responsible in upgrading lighting to LED fixtures and

bulbs and said the board may revisit geothermal heating in a school test project now that costs for that form of heating continue to tumble.

### COVID hits budget

Ellis said the board's financial picture would be "much rosier" without COVID.

First quarter numbers were presented and COVID costs have impacted virtually every budget line.

He said staffing and technology costs had climbed with added purchases of things such as plexiglass, vapour barrier and signage.

"Of the \$4 million we were able to access from our surplus we have spent \$3.9 million of that already," he said.

### Director's report

Director of Education, Wes Hahn, brought trustees up to speed on what was happening in the schools as things returned to some level of "normalcy" Feb. 8. He said kids are glad to be back.

"This is where we want them to be. We need to keep moving forward with learning. We want to make sure there are not gaps in learning. We want the system to be in a better situation post-COVID. We need to set that stage but not accelerate too quickly."

He also laid out some of the changes to health protocols demanded by the province. These include no students congregating outside school buildings and high school



J. Douglas Hodgson E.S. File.

students self-declaring they are COVID symptom-free while morning attendance is being taken.

There's additional provincial funding for improved air quality and air flow testing, PPE/cleaning of buses, technology, summer learning and online learning.

Hahn had no details from the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit regarding a provincial promise of asymptomatic testing in schools.

Brohman praised staff "for keeping the wheels of learning turning. School is about playing and building relationships. I see smiles behind those masks when I drive by schools. I hope that all our staff gets a well-deserved March Break as expected."

The province announced Feb. 11 that March Break is being postponed to April 12-16. (School board news compiled by Kirk Winter)

## Tips to get children ready for kindergarten

By Carolyn Alder

Kindergarten registration is now open for the 2021-2022 school year.

While parents start helping their children with learning letters, numbers and pre-printing, early interventionist with Point in Time, Tiffany Jones, offered some suggestions to help get your child ready for kindergarten with skills one might not think of.

"The things we can do to help prepare them for kindergarten can be done throughout our everyday life," Jones said. "It can be fun and enjoyable and the kids don't even know that you are teaching them skills."

One of the more important goals to work

on, according to Jones, is for new students to recognize their name.

"Their name is going to be on their desk, their belongings and their work. So being able to recognize their name will help when gathering up their belongings."

One way to encourage name recognition and spelling is to have your child's name printed at eye level on their bedroom door and go over the letters every night before bed.

Other skills for children to practice are packing and unpacking their backpack, putting shoes on and taking them off, putting their coat on by themselves and zipping it up, and washing their hands.

Jones encourages parents to remember they are already teaching their children

when it comes to self help.

"Self help is a little bit extra but a lot of it is things that parents are already doing in their everyday life, with their children that their children are naturally learning through seeing siblings or parents do, that the skills are already starting but maybe need some more practice."

Archie Stouffer Elementary School kindergarten teacher, Bonnie Tokar, said a child's nature is also important.

"Establishing important character traits such as being motivated, patient, kind and respectful are of utmost importance. Academic skills come much easier when students adhere to these positive character traits."

Jones advises to not lose sleep if you feel

your child isn't ready compared to other children their age.

"Try not to stress about it because your child is going to learn these skills in school. Teachers, early childhood educators and their peers will help teach them. However, if you feel they are struggling or aren't picking it up as they should be, have a conversation with the school so the teachers can be aware and give more help."

Parents can also call Point in Time at 705-457-5345 for more support.

Point in Time also has video tips on how to help your child get ready for kindergarten on their Facebook page.

Kindergarten registration closes at the end of February.



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# Highlander people

## Giving the gift of safety for 22 years

By Lisa Gervais

Cleaning out her files during her last week with the YWCA Peterborough-Haliburton, Paula Pepping is coming across cards from some of the “many, many, many” clients she has worked with during a 22-year-career.

“I have had some lovely cards from women saying how grateful they are for our support because it’s not just me. We’re a team,” Pepping said in a Feb. 12 interview.

She started her community development work in 1998 with The Women’s Safety Network. They provided outreach to abused women with two part-time staff. The office and resource centre was in Haliburton and a community-built emergency house was located behind the Dysart et al fire department.

With no ongoing permanent funding, they had to close the emergency house and Pepping was involved with the transition that would eventually come under the YWCA umbrella and lead to the development of the Haliburton Emergency Rural SafeSpace or HERS in Minden.

Pepping recalls some of the highlights of earlier community development work with “lots of programs for women, from Cardiff to Minden, Haliburton ... wherever.”

With the health unit’s Rosie Kadwell, there was an early food box program that is continuing today. There was a lunch

program at Cardiff Elementary School.

Pepping was jokingly referred to as the “condom lady” since she wanted to tackle high rates of unplanned pregnancy in the community by ensuring there were free condoms. She recalls how high school girls would come to the office to “use the bathroom” but would inevitably dip into the free condom basket. At the time she said it cost \$25 for 144 condoms, so she would cajole her friends to donate \$12.50 for a half pack. It was a precursor to today’s sexual health programs at the local health unit.

Starting with the Y, her focus shifted more to working with women in the community who were living in, leaving, or had left abusive relationships. She was involved in offering support, driving women to services or connecting them to them. It was also a time of formulating partnerships with community services and increasing the YWCA profile in the County.

She said that profile has been greatly increased and fundraising a key. “Many individuals have contributed and continue to. We could not survive without those contributions. Haliburton County is really an amazing community. Generous and kind.”

Pepping said, “My work has always been really close to my heart. All of the services we provide to the community. I have experienced much tragedy and also seen

women have successes.”

She said their ethos is to support women in their choices, whether it is to stay, go back, go back-and-forth, or eventually leave.

“We work with women where they are at, inch by inch, sometimes by leaps and bounds. I think I did a good job with my team and with the community. And with the support the community gives, it gives the gift of safety for the women we work with to the best of our capacity.”

One example that stands out is a woman who came to the shelter with holes in her shoes, no underwear and just the clothes on her back. She worked two jobs to get back on her feet. She showed up at Christmas one year with a box of brand-new slippers as a donation.

In addition to the ‘thank you’ cards, Pepping recalls some of the phone calls over the years from women who had left abusive situations and “bloomed.” She said the common thread is, “I’m so thankful for your support. Without you I couldn’t have done this.” She added sometimes women call after a number of years to tell her, “Hey, Paula, I’m doing ok. That means a lot to me.”

At 65, Pepping said, “It’s just time for my next chapter in life.”

Tearing up, she said it is bittersweet. She will miss her co-workers.

“I feel really honoured that I was able



Paula Pepping stands outside the HERS shelter in Minden Feb. 16, during her last week of work. She is retiring after a 22-year career of helping Haliburton County women and children. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

to do this work in this community. I love the direct contact and grassroots work I’ve done. That has been my passion, I am going to miss it.”

## INFORMATION PAGE

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### A Message from the Fire Department

#### Generator Safety

- Follow the manufacturer’s instructions and guidelines when using generators.
- Use a generator or other fuel-powered machines outside the home. CO fumes are odourless and can quickly overwhelm you indoors.
- Use the appropriate sized and type power cords to carry the electric load. Overloaded cords can overheat and cause fires.
- Never run cords under rugs or carpets where heat might build up or damage to a cord may go unnoticed.
- Never connect generators to another power source such as power lines. The reverse flow of electricity or ‘back feed’ can electrocute an unsuspecting utility worker.

#### Waste Reduction Tip

Buy hand soap, dish detergent, laundry detergent and cleaning supplies in bulk to save money and reduce plastic waste in your home. If you need to transfer the bulk product into a smaller container, rinse out and re-use the last container you bought.

### (Virtual) Council Meetings

Council and Committee of the Whole meetings are currently being conducted virtually via web conference and Closed Session meetings via teleconference, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted.

The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

**February 25  
Regular Council Meeting**

**March 11  
Committee of the Whole Meeting**

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at [www.minden hills.ca/council/](http://www.minden hills.ca/council/) or by using the direct link provided in the notice. We encourage those wishing to view the meeting to also download the agenda, as it will not be displayed during the streaming process.

Meeting agendas can be downloaded by visiting our website at [www.minden hills.ca/council/](http://www.minden hills.ca/council/).

Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

### Request for Rates

#### RFR #RDS 21-01 Truck and Equipment Rental Rates

The Township is seeking bids for hourly rates for the rental of construction equipment for a four (4) year term (2021-2024). The deadline for submissions is February 24, 2021 by 12:00 noon.

#### RFR# RDS 21-02 Aggregate and Material Rates

The Township is seeking bids for aggregate and material rates for a four (4) year term (2021-2024). The deadline for submissions is March 1, 2021 by 12:00 noon.

Visit [www.minden hills.ca/tenders](http://www.minden hills.ca/tenders) for more information or to download the Request for Rates documents.

### Disposable Masks and Gloves

Please ensure you deposit your used disposable masks and gloves in the garbage. These are not recyclable.

### Summer Student Employment Opportunities

Are you a student looking for a great summer job? The Township of Minden Hills is currently accepting resumes for Summer Students for our **Community Services Department in Parks** and at our **Minden Hills Cultural Centre as Heritage Interpreters**.

Both positions are for a 16 week period from May to August with the rate of pay being \$14.25/hour, pending 2021 budget and grant funding approval.

Please visit our website at [www.minden hills.ca/employment-opportunities/](http://www.minden hills.ca/employment-opportunities/) for posting details, job requirements and submission instructions, or email [sprentice@minden hills.ca](mailto:sprentice@minden hills.ca)



# Highlander investigates

## Killen: 'I didn't like what I saw' in the mirror

Continued from page 1

"I thought the group that I joined was a family. They listened to me. They understood me. They took care of me," Killen said.

But that life changed at age 19 when Killen said he shot a friend in a trade dispute. The friend survived, according to Killen, but was severely injured.

"I sat there, waiting for the police because I knew there was no way of me running."

He described getting out on bail and leaving the country, hitchhiking in the USA for more than two years. Eventually, he was caught and was returned home to Canada, where he was sentenced to more than 15 years in prison.

"It's a totally different world," Killen said. "Since I've been out, I realize all those years, I have been taking a lot of things for granted."

### Life on the streets

When he was released from his long sentence at age 35, Killen said authorities did not provide him much help.

"They don't give you places to go. They don't suggest what you should do when you're out," he said. "Being 35 years old, being kicked out into society with no help, no communications, no referrals, it was hard for me. So, for (much) of the next 23 years, I was homeless."

He said he was able to survive by holding doors open for people at a Tim Hortons in Toronto. He knew how to get around and find places to handle his hygiene and laundry.

But Killen was dealing with more than homelessness. He was battling an addiction to cocaine, something that followed him through his years in prison and was still prevalent in his life.

"I know it's not right, but at the time, it felt like a companion. My main concern was to get my fix for the day," Killen said. "I think of how much money I spent. I could have built a house with the money I spent on drugs."

He said his life changed 14 years after being released, when he was taken in by a new homelessness program that helped him transition to permanent housing with assistance. He was able to get an apartment at an affordable rate.

But he said it was not entirely a blessing. Drug dealing was prevalent at his apartment building, he said.

"My addiction got super worse."

McLean said she met Killen while he was living in that apartment. They encountered each other at Killen's usual Tim Hortons and hit it off quickly.

"I was in love," McLean said. "He was good to me."

She moved in with him. But his lies about his addiction came between them. After three years, she gave him an ultimatum.

"He either got clean and I'd be in his life and support him, or he could use and I didn't."



John "Buffalo" Killen stands with a medal he received from Alcoholics Anonymous for sobriety. Photo by Joseph Quigley

Killen said he did not react much at first. "I didn't give a shit. I was getting high," he said. "I didn't really care until she moved."

With an empty apartment and addiction holding him, Killen had an epiphany.

"I went to the washroom and I looked myself in the mirror and I did not like what I saw," Killen said. "I started crying and actually broke down."

It was at that point life turned around, he said. He discovered Renascent, a Toronto-based addiction treatment center. He was accepted to begin rehab at a facility in Brooklin, Ontario.

"It was wonderful," Killen said, adding the counsellors had strong expertise.

Daniel Buller is a part-time counsellor with Renascent who spent time with Killen during his rehab.

"Jon came in a very angry individual and I watched him change," Buller said. "He mellowed out ... I guess he said to himself he's got no option. This is it and he went out and he followed the rules to the best of his ability."

McLean said she regularly visited him during his rehab.

"After that, he was just a different, calmer person," McLean said. "He didn't fight with me. He didn't argue over crazy things."

"Renascent saved me life," Killen said. "I'm really glad I called."

### Coming to Haliburton

Killen moved to the Wilberforce area soon after coming out of rehab, temporarily residing in a cottage owned by McLean's family.

"I love it out here in Haliburton. I love Wilberforce, I love the outdoors," Killen said. "I'm a native. I never did like the concrete jungle."

Despite the pandemic, Killen said he has gotten by with some odd jobs and the help of the Canada Emergency Response Benefit. He is renting out a room in a home in Highlands East, actively looking for work. He also owns a car, which he said is a first for him.

"A year ago, I would never have thought this was possible for me," he said. "I feel really proud of myself. I've come a long way."

With his life experiences, he said he notices local people abusing drugs as he did.

"For anybody that has an addiction like I do, what they should do is look at themselves in the mirror and ask themselves, 'Is this my life? Is this what I want to be?'"

He said support systems should be stronger and it would have made a difference if he could have gotten into Renascent after he left prison.

He said people who judge those with addiction should have "a little compassion."

"Me getting into that situation, mostly, there's no one out there to help," Killen said. "There should be places where you can walk in, no questions asked, tell them you have an addiction and get the help you need."

"Same thing with housing and the homeless," he added. "They want to get the homeless off the street, they can."

He added it was critical to have a stable living situation to access the information he needed to get into Renascent's program. It has a publicly funded option through the Ministry of Health, Buller said, but there is an application process and an approximately three-month waiting list.

"I didn't like being door-slammed on my face," Killen said about seeking help while homeless. "Some of these places, they're not very easy to get to right away. There's always waiting lists and you know, I just didn't bother."

With more than two years of sobriety, Killen said he is living his life more fully. He said it is not about willpower but knowing what you pass up. He also welcomed anyone to call him at 437-345-1338 if they are facing a problem like his.

"I've been doing things I never dreamed of doing when I was high. You really have to stop wanting to use."



# ACTIVE LIVING



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## Never too late for snow removal tips

By Kirk Winter

With winter not quite over, the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit has shared some reminders about snow removal.

Clearing snow and ice from your driveway and around your house is a necessary, but not always pleasant, activity for most of us, said health promoter Joanne Brewster.

Brewster said snow shoveling, especially for some older adults, can be a challenge. In some cases, especially after a bad snowstorm, it can also be a high-risk activity.

According to the Public Health Agency of Canada, the physical demands of shovelling combined with cold temperatures can pose fatal risks on the heart.

Brewster said there was plenty of proof of that in a study published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal in February 2017. Using 20 years of data from Quebec, the study found a direct link between the quantity of snow and length of snowfall and an increased risk of hospital admissions or deaths due to heart attacks. This was especially true for men.

"Some experts suggest that older adults (men especially) should not shovel snow due to the potential health effects and injury risks," Brewster added.

Here are some health unit-suggested snow-removal safety tips to consider:

- Consult a health care provider. Anyone who is older, overweight, out of shape and/or has a history of heart disease in the family should seek advice from their doctor before taking any chances.
- Warm up first. Shovelling is just like any other exercise. It's a good idea to limber up with some basic stretches



The health unit has provided some snow removal tips. *Ross Snow, Flickr.*

before you begin.

- Layer upon layer. The body quickly generates heat when shovelling. By dressing in thin, breathable layers, you can avoid overheating.

- Avoid a full stomach. Be sure to digest your meals before picking up the shovel. A full stomach can cause strain on the heart during physical activity.

- Take your time. Take a break. Don't forget to give yourself a breather in the middle of strenuous shovelling. A rest is good for the muscles, especially the heart.

- Push the snow before lifting it. If you do lift snow, use a small shovel or only partially fill the shovel to reduce the load.

- Stop immediately if you feel dizzy or tightness in your chest.

- Use the buddy system. Even shovelling is better when you do it in twos. You cut your work in half and you have a pal to keep you company. Plus, you can look out for one another should anything serious happen.

- Get with the program. Check with your local municipality or community-based programs to see if there is help for snow removal, especially if you are a senior. One suggestion Brewster made is 211 Ontario.

- Pay the price and get help. Consider getting a snow blower to make snow removal easier. Hiring a snow removal service to do the job can also be money well-spent.



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# ACTIVE LIVING



Susannah and Barry Moylan built an outdoor curling rink on Drag Lake for some extra winter recreation. *Photo by Joseph Quigley.*

## Moylans are lords of their rings

**By Joseph Quigley**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

With the pandemic and lockdown shuttering local curling clubs, the Moylan family took matters into their own hands to play their most beloved sport.

They moved to Drag Lake this summer with a plan to build an outdoor, regulation-sized curling rink – with stones, rings, and all. With shovelling, flooding and food colouring, they recently achieved their goal and can now curl right behind their home.

“We’re a big curling family. That’s all we

do in the winter,” Susannah Moylan said. “We wanted to put it in so we could play, as well as have our friends and family over. When they come over, we can have fun, have a little bonspiel of our own.”

Curling has otherwise been hard to come by this winter. They moved from Ajax, where their local rink permanently closed. The Haliburton Curling Club ran for about a month before the lockdown halted play. Both the Minden and Wilberforce curling clubs have opted not to open this year.

“We wanted to do it,” Moylan said. “Because of the pandemic, a lot more

people are building their own rinks.”

Building and maintaining the rink is a battle against the elements. Barry Moylan, Susannah’s partner, said you must keep up with it.

“Don’t let (snow) build up, because once it’s over five inches, it’s a lot of work,” he said. “There’s been slush – and everything else on there comes through, it changes the levels.”

The couple decided to move to Haliburton as a retirement place, after visiting for a family reunion. They bought land a couple of years ago and recently finished a build.

“It’s small, but it’s big enough,” Susannah Moylan said. “We’re adjusting well to Haliburton. We really like it – I think we made a great decision to come here.”

The family said it has been nice to have a rink with curling clubs shut down. But they said they are eager to get back to the indoor rinks, with Haliburton’s due to reopen Feb. 17.

“Can’t wait,” Susannah Moylan said. “I’m really happy they decided to open because a lot of other curling clubs didn’t.”

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# What's on

## WHAT'S ON

### Land Trust Discovery Days (February)

For the month of February, participants are invited to share any interesting photos or observations of animal tracks or signs. These can be shared as a comment to the Land Trust's weekly Discovery Days 'My Backyard' Facebook post or can be emailed to their office at [admin@haliburtonlandtrust.ca](mailto:admin@haliburtonlandtrust.ca) - include 'My Backyard in subject line' - to be shared on Facebook from there.

In addition to posting photos, participants are invited to visit [haliburtonlandtrust.ca](http://haliburtonlandtrust.ca) where they will find printable or viewable brochures, tracking information, videos and other educational materials related to animal tracks and signs. Video links have also been posted to their Facebook page.

### Feb. 11- March 25 (Thursdays - 4:30-5:30 p.m.)

Online Zumba (Zoom) with certified instructor, Joanne MacLeod. Zumba involves dance and aerobic movements performed to energetic music. The program is open to all genders and experience levels. 18-plus. It's offered by the Township of Algonquin Highlands. Drop-in programs are by donation. For more information and to give a donation, call the Dorset Recreation Centre at 705-766-9968.

**Mondays** - Haliburton County Public Library has a new story studio for grownups. Every Monday at 4 p.m. [started Feb. 8]. See their Facebook Live or YouTube. Listen to a chapter at a time of *The Blue Castle* by L.M. Montgomery of *Anne of Green Gables* fame (including a quick review in case you missed the previous chapter).

**Saturdays** - Online story time, a spot for families to gather and enjoy story time together. Every Saturday at 10:10 a.m. on Facebook Live and YouTube.

**Tuesdays and Wednesdays** at 2 p.m. - Maker Breakers on Facebook Live and YouTube

**Feb 23.** - Harry Potter: Painted Rocks and Wands

**Feb 24.** - Leather Book Cover

You can borrow Makey Makey kits from the library for a one-week loan. Computer required but not included.

**Fridays** - Learn hints and tips about using your computer, tablet, or smartphone: a different topic each week. Coming up: Friday Feb. 12 and Feb. 26 at 2p.m. Contact [rmuir@haliburtonlibrary.ca](mailto:rmuir@haliburtonlibrary.ca) for details.

### Book clubs and writing groups

Algonquin Highlands Writers Circle: Alternate Saturdays at 10 a.m. via Zoom. Contact [brenda.peddigrew@gmail.com](mailto:brenda.peddigrew@gmail.com)

Wilberforce Library Book Club: Last Wednesday monthly at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Contact

Maureen at [wilberforcebookclub@gmail.com](mailto:wilberforcebookclub@gmail.com)

**HAVE AN UPCOMING EVENT?**  
Contact [admin@thehighlander.ca](mailto:admin@thehighlander.ca)

## Mixing mindfulness with martial arts

By Joseph Quigley  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Point in Time is partnering to remotely deliver a mental health martial arts program to kids and youth this month.

The charity is bringing back its Mindfulness Martial Arts and Young Warriors programs, which combine martial arts and yoga with behavioural therapy techniques. The programs, for ages 12-18 and 8-11 respectively, will be delivered online through the Youth Hub for the first time. The courses will last 18 weeks.

Point in Time Family Support's Melanie Jones said mindfulness practices can be valuable at any time, but even more so at times such as during a pandemic.

"The program really focuses on bringing yourself to the present moment, being with uncomfortable feelings, uncomfortable thoughts and then not judging them," Jones said. "Change how our thoughts impact us."

The Mindfulness Martial Arts Program was adapted locally through Haliburton Highlands Secondary School in 2014 but was sidelined by the pandemic. Jones said organizers worked for months to find a way to deliver it remotely, collaborating recently with the Integra Child Development Institute for a new online model.

Kelly Outram is a martial arts instructor with K.O. Martial Arts who is teaching the course for the first time. He said the concept inspired him, as he used both mindfulness and martial arts to help overcome his mental health struggles.

He added martial arts offers a good



Point in Time is bringing back its programs that combine mindfulness with martial arts. Photo via Point in Time.

way to improve oneself and gain physical benefits as well.

"You recognize you're able to do things you could only imagine doing when you started," Outram said. "If you're able to stay consistent about it, you get a lot of physical health benefits as well that also keep your mind fresh."

The programs were previously delivered in-person, but Jones said there are some benefits to online delivery, including home comfort. Parents in the younger course will also take an active role in participation, she said.

With Point in Time also starting a campaign to address connectivity issues for youth in need, Jones said they are willing to work through internet problems.

"We're willing to work with every family to try and eliminate all of those barriers, whatever they might be," Jones said.

Outram said he had some reservations on the format, but there is plenty in martial arts that can be taught remotely, even without a partner.

He added the mindfulness side of the program should translate well.

"Especially in this pandemic, which has given everyone a whole host of new stresses, and we need new ways to respond to these stresses," Outram said. "Mindfulness practices is one of the best ways to do that."

Young Warriors begins Feb. 23 while Mindfulness Martial Arts will have an information night Feb. 22. Information is available by contacting 705-457-5345 or [melaniej@pointintime.ca](mailto:melaniej@pointintime.ca).



Foundation director Cathy Mack pulls out the grand prize ticket with board chair Eric Recalla. Photo by Joseph Quigley.

## Family Day cash

Stephen Tinling of Toronto is the winner of the \$20,000 grand prize in this year's Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation Cash for Care lottery. The foundation completed its final draw Feb. 15 outside the Haliburton hospital. Jack and Loretta Billings won \$2,000 and Betty Austin won \$1,500. Approximately 3,800 tickets were sold, with proceeds going toward purchasing vital signs monitors for local hospitals. (Joseph Quigley, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter).



## BUSINESS ADVISORIES | COVID-19 LOCAL BUSINESS ADJUSTMENTS &amp; CLOSURES

**Transat Travel** – Temporarily closed, please contact Oshawa Transat Travel 905-723-7726 or pcc24z8@transat.com.

**Cordell Carpet** – Beginning Monday, February 22 we will be open, with limited numbers and back to regular hours Monday to Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Email cordellcarpet@bellnet.ca or call 705-457-2022 or cordellcarpet.ca.

**Algonquin Outfitters** – Full details of operations can be found at [algonquinoutfitters.com/covid-19-dec-28-2020](http://algonquinoutfitters.com/covid-19-dec-28-2020) and for Haliburton store at [algonquinoutfitters.com/store-location/haliburton](http://algonquinoutfitters.com/store-location/haliburton). Offering curbside pickup and rentals as well as online sales at [algonquinoutfitters.com](http://algonquinoutfitters.com) or call 1-705-457-3737 for local service.

**Outdoors Plus** – Open but can only have one person in the store at a time. Currently keeping regular hours Mon-Fri 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sat 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. This can change quickly, call store to make sure we are available. 705-457-3113.

**Tim Hortons** – Minden and Haliburton are open for drive-thru and walk-in take out. 12597 Highway 35, Minden & 5003 CR 21, Haliburton.

**Buckley Electric** – Open. Serving Haliburton County. Call 705-286-1134 or email [info@buckleyelectric.com](mailto:info@buckleyelectric.com).

**Abbey Gardens Food Hub** – In-store shopping available. Call/shop online for curbside pick-up. Wednesday to Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. 705-754-4769 or [abbeygardens.ca/shop-online](http://abbeygardens.ca/shop-online).

**Minden Hills Rent-All** – Open by appointment for sales and service of Stihl and Cub Cadet products. Also the renting of equipment and party products. Call 705-286-3047.

**Kubota North** – Open with curbside pick up and drop off. Call 705-645-1175.

**The Pregnancy Care & Family Support Centre** – Is open for appointments Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call or text 705-457-4673 to schedule your appointment.

**John Fountain Electronics** – Hours of operation, Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. - half hour those mornings for curb-side pickup.

**Up River Trading Co.** – [uprivertrading.com](http://uprivertrading.com) is open for business and we're doing curbside pickup in Minden and Haliburton on request. Call us at 705-286-1015. Our cafe remains closed during lockdown.

**The Haliburton Real Estate Team** – In Business as (UN)Usual. We're here to help you buy or sell. Call Linda at 705-457-6508.

**County Automotive** – Open by appointment only. The office is closed to customers at this time. Drop off your vehicle only. Call 705-457-1411 or [countyautomotive@hotmail.com](mailto:countyautomotive@hotmail.com).

**Fleming CREW Employment Services** – All in-person services suspended until further notice. Offering appointments virtually and by phone. Please call, email or visit website to book appointment. 705-457-2020 or [flemingcrew@flemingcollege.ca](mailto:flemingcrew@flemingcollege.ca) or [www.flemingcrew@flemingcollege.ca](http://www.flemingcrew@flemingcollege.ca).

**Taylor Carpet One** – Huntsville – We have cautiously reopened this week, however appointments are encouraged. Our hours are 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. through Saturday Feb 20, returning to 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, and 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday as of February 22nd. Call 705-789-9259 or visit [taylorcarpetonehuntsville.com](http://taylorcarpetonehuntsville.com).

**Country Rose Flowers & Garden** – Accepting prepaid orders by phone for pickup or delivery. Open Mon-Sat 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. at 13513 Hwy 118 W Haliburton, ON 705-457-3774.

**Lakeview Motel** – Open, however business not as usual and we are accepting essential workers only. Call 705-457-1027 for information.

**Riverview Furniture** – Our doors are back open with Covid protocols in place. As always, we offer curbside and virtual shopping. Call or email 705-286-3167 or [info@riverview-furniture.com](mailto:info@riverview-furniture.com).

**Wintergreen Maple** – Open by chance,

appointment and curbside. We are open all weekends (retail only) in March & April 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Call 705-286-3202.

**Subway Minden & Subway Haliburton** – Open 7 days from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. for takeout and remote order pickup only.

**Glass Eagle Studios** on Blairhampton Road – During the lockdown we will be open to sell our honey. Call Tom at 705-286-3628.

**Contact North** – Haliburton – Take advantage of online workplace and skills training, high school, post-secondary programming with support from Contact North in Haliburton. Help available at 1-855-867-9528 or [www.studyonline.ca](http://www.studyonline.ca).

**WRD Cottage Rental Agency** – Still taking bookings and accepting cottage rentals for this 2021 Summer season. Call 705-457-9434.

**Walkers Heating & Cooling** – Office closed to public, but can be reached by calling (705) 457-2375 or by emailing [info@walkershvac.com](mailto:info@walkershvac.com). Maintenance and service appointments, 24/7 emergency service and on-site estimates for future HVAC projects or installations.

**John Francis Fuels** – We continue to provide essential services but our office is closed. Contact us at 705-286-2738 or [office@johnfrancisfuels.ca](mailto:office@johnfrancisfuels.ca).

**Studio Rose** – Open. Our website has many things for pickup or shipping. Call 705-286-3383 or 705-754-5099 or at [studiorosepottery.com](http://studiorosepottery.com).

**Troy Optical** – Open, please call for appointment. 705-286-0727 or [troyoptical.com](http://troyoptical.com).

**Highlands Storage** – Available. Call 705-489-3925 or email [info@highlands-storage.com](mailto:info@highlands-storage.com) for on-site office's business hours.

**The Parish & Strano Real Estate Team** – Open. Call 705-457-5485 for a no-charge property evaluation.

**Lockside Trading Company** – Online shopping, curbside pick-up, delivery. Youngs Point & Haliburton open Mon-Sat. Contact [lockside.com](http://lockside.com) or [shop@lockside.com](mailto:shop@lockside.com) or 1-888-714-0484.

**Highlands Printing and Publishing** – Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday. Email [mountainside\\_farm@hotmail.com](mailto:mountainside_farm@hotmail.com) or call 705-489-2036. Not open for walk-ins.

**Algonquin Cookhouse** – Open takeout only, Tuesday-Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Mondays. Harcourt, E Trail, 705-448-8868. Find us on Facebook.

**Delancey Sports** – Open Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Curbside, online and delivery options. Call 705-455-9938, email [info@delanceysports.com](mailto:info@delanceysports.com) or visit [delanceysports.com](http://delanceysports.com).

**Wind in the Willows Spa & Boutique** – We are open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. Online shopping at [haliburton-spa.com](http://haliburton-spa.com).

**Country Magic** – Open under strict provincial guidelines. Tuesday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.


**Eco-Choice Pest Control** – Open for curbside pickup only at this time or virtual browsing at [info@ecochoicepestcontrol.ca](mailto:info@ecochoicepestcontrol.ca) or call 705-457-1500.

**Northern Expressions** – Open for in-store shopping, Monday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Sunday.

**Bernstein's & FedEX** – Pickup and drop off – Open Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday call 705-457-1777 for your shopping needs.

**Rails End Gallery** – Open for in-person visits and shopping. Wednesday to Friday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Next Exhibition opens February 27 with a Zoom reception and timed viewing in person. [railsendgallery.com](http://railsendgallery.com)

**Kosy Korner** – From Saturday, February 20, open 7 days a week 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.



# A harmless coffee break can do more harm than you think.

**Wear a mask, wash your hands and physically distance to stop the spread of COVID-19.**  
Learn more at [ontario.ca/covid-19](http://ontario.ca/covid-19)

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# Highlander classifieds

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For further information contact 705.286.1628

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Email [scott.alexander@northsteel.ca](mailto:scott.alexander@northsteel.ca) or call 705-457-6670

## Kosy Korner

is looking for a full time cook. Current shifts are 7:30 am – 3 pm. Wages competitive and benefits after 3 months. Send resume to [ann@haliburtonrpm.com](mailto:ann@haliburtonrpm.com)



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### Township of Algonquin Highlands requires an Administrative Assistant

(Maternity Leave Replacement – 14 month Contract)

The Township of Algonquin Highlands is seeking to fill a 14 month maternity leave vacancy for the position of Administrative Assistant. Reporting to the Treasurer, the Administrative Assistant provides effective and efficient administrative support and assistance to the Treasurer, Clerk, Fire Chief and Operations Manager.

Visit our website at: [www.algonquinhighlands.ca](http://www.algonquinhighlands.ca) for the full job description.

Please submit your resume and cover letter by **3:00 p.m. on Friday, February 26, 2021** to:

**Dawn Mugford-Guay,**  
**Human Resources Coordinator**  
Township of Algonquin Highlands  
1123 North Shore Road  
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1  
Email: [dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca](mailto:dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca)



### Township of Algonquin Highlands

#### NOTICE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETINGS 2021 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

**NOTE:** As a result of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak, as well as the requirements for social distancing, Council Meetings will be conducted electronically via web conference until further notice.

**TAKE NOTICE that** Council will begin its 2021 budget deliberations during a **Special Meeting on Monday, February 22, 2021** commencing at 9:00 a.m. conducted electronically via web conference.

Council will continue its 2021 budget deliberations during a **Special Meeting on Tuesday, February 23, 2021** commencing at 9:00 a.m. conducted electronically via web conference.

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link. The live-stream link can be found in the Council Meeting Notice posted on the Township's website under the News and Notices at [www.algonquinhighlands.ca](http://www.algonquinhighlands.ca)

Dated this 10th day of February, 2021.

**Dawn Newhook, Municipal Clerk**  
Township of Algonquin Highlands  
1123 North Shore Road  
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1  
T: (705) 489-2379 x333  
E: [dnewhook@algonquinhighlands.ca](mailto:dnewhook@algonquinhighlands.ca)



### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY - GARDEN MANAGER

We are currently seeking a Garden Manager to be an integral part of the staff team. The manager will be responsible for developing and implementing the plan for vegetable production; contribute to educational garden development, oversee The Growcer (hydroponic unit); collaborate on the development of the Big Pit restoration; and assist with work on the overall property as time permits.

This is a full time position with potential for year round hours.

For full job description please go to <https://abbeygardens.ca/get-involved/#jobs>. Applications can be submitted via email to [cara@abbeygardens.ca](mailto:cara@abbeygardens.ca)



**DRIVERS** - part time or full time needed for Hyland Taxi. G License for taxi is required. B, C or F License required for 11 passenger van and bus. Call 705-457-9898.

## COVID: Free notices for businesses

If you have updates on business hours and operations, email them to [admin@thehighlander.ca](mailto:admin@thehighlander.ca). (25 words max). If you would like to place a larger ad, please email [sales@thehighlander.ca](mailto:sales@thehighlander.ca).



# Highlander classifieds

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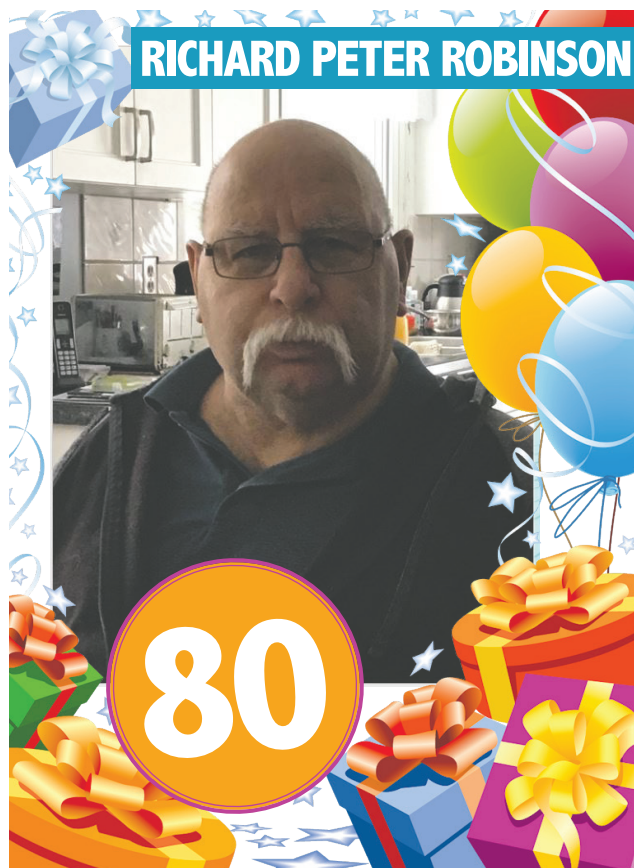
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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

### RICHARD PETER ROBINSON



## ROBERT JOHN COLWELL



Age 92 years. Retired from Consumers Gas (Veteran RAF and RCAF and member of Branch 178 Royal Canadian Legion)

Passed away peacefully at his home on Wednesday February 10, 2021

Beloved husband of the late Ann Colwell. Dear father of David & Jacquelin and John & Mary. Loving grandfather of Melissa (Jacob), Clayton and Kristine (Gab). Dear great-grandfather of Hailey.

A Celebration of Bob's Life will be held at a later date when restrictions are lifted. Memorial Donations may be made to Bowmanville Hospital Foundation through NORTH CUTT ELLIOTT FUNERAL HOME, 53 Division St. Bowmanville, with whom the arrangements have been entrusted. Online condolences may be made at:

www.northcuttelliott.com

## OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

### Rose Marie Barry (nee Nunn)



Passed away peacefully at Extendicare, Haliburton on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 as the result of advanced COPD, at the age of 86.

Beloved wife of the late Wren Barry (2011). Dear mother of Christopher of Calgary, Alberta and predeceased by her son David

Charles Barry (2017). Dear sister of Robert, Collette, sister-in-law of Elaine and predeceased by her brother Thomas and by her sister Elizabeth. Lovingly remembered by her family and friends.

Due to COVID restrictions, a private family graveside interment service and burial will be held at Maple Lake United Church Cemetery in the spring of 2021.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, K0M 2K0.



## SOLUTIONS FOR FEB 18

1	P	2	A	3	B	4	S	5	T	6	I	7	W	8	I	9	S	10	H	11	O	12	N	13	C		
14	A	T	A	L	E					15	N	E	W	L	Y					16	H	A	B				
17	S	O	R	E	R					18	G	L	O	O	M				19	Y	G	U	S				
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43	W	H	A	T	S	I	S												46	T	I	N	P	A	N		
49	H	A	R	I				50	S	I	L	51	L	Y	B	I	L	L	Y								
53	I	M	I	N				54	G										55	E	U	R	E	K	A		
56	P	L	A	I	N			57	J	A	N	E							59	R	O	N	A	60	61	S	
62	I	I	N					63	A	L	O	N	G						64	I	N	T	R	C			
65	T	N	S					66	T	O	K	Y	O						67	A	S	S	E	T			

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1 bdrm shared accommodation. Large bath, kitchen, living space & dining area. Hot tub, water access & shared laundry. 5 min. to Minden. \$800/month, first & last. Mature working individual. References required. Call 705-455-2050

**Stedman's Mall – 3 units for lease 900–2500 sq ft 187 Highland Street. For more information call Andrea Strano at Re/Max Professionals North 705-457-1011 or 705-457-5984**

## HEALTH & WELLNESS



Dr. B. Mason  
Chiropractor  
3398 Gelert Rd., Minden, Ont.  
705-286-4350

## WANTED TO BUY

Steel Minn Toy Oil Trucks, preferred in original shape. Call Larry 705-454-2839

Looking to buy old snowmobiles in any condition. Also any old snowmobile memorabilia such as helmets, snowsuits, manuals. Call or text 705-879-5306

Looking to buy 3 Wheel Golf Push-Pull Cart. Electric with remote. Call John 705-286-2798

## FOR SALE

2012 Chev Equinox \$1,000. "as is" 175,000 km's please contact Ray at 705-306-0649

# Have an opinion?

Send your letters to [editor@thehighlander.ca](mailto:editor@thehighlander.ca)

(300 words max)





# Highlander classifieds

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**Listen and Play every Tuesday Night at 6pm.**  
**Three games are played each Tuesday Night**



# Highlander puzzles

## Name Tags

by Barbara Olson

© ClassiCanadian Crosswords

### Across

- 1 Budweiser rival
- 6 "If only!"
- 11 Lennon's love
- 14 "\_\_\_ of Two Cities"
- 15 Just of late
- 16 1993 Stanley Cup hoister, informally
- 17 Less likely to forgive
- 18 Glass-half-empty kind of guy
- 20 "Act natural, dude"
- 22 Nasty ring around the collar?
- 23 Know-it-all kind of guy
- 27 Loves and leaves, say
- 28 With kindness
- 29 Some pianos or motorcycles
- 31 Small change in Paris, once
- 32 "... plan, \_\_\_. Panama!" (palindrome)
- 34 Nail-biting kind of girl
- 40 Decides one will
- 41 Prov. riding rep
- 43 Thingamajig
- 46 \_\_\_ Alley (old music-publishing area)
- 49 Dancer-turned-spy Mata \_\_\_
- 50 Crazy, clownish kind of guy
- 53 Chatting via Facebook, for short
- 55 Archimedes's bathtub cry
- 56 Blend-into-the-background kind of girl
- 59 Some home building supply outlets
- 62 "There's no \_\_\_ team!"
- 63 With, with "with"
- 64 Opening blurb, briefly
- 65 Cities' smaller cousins: Abbr.
- 66 DisneySea's Asian location
- 67 Balance sheet plus

### Down

- 1 Mas' mates
- 2 From \_\_\_ Z (the gamut)
- 3 Patio cookout
- 5 Toyota model named after a male hawk
- 6 Start to a U.S. money motto
- 7 "\_\_\_ never!"
- 8 \_\_\_ Jima (WW II battle site)
- 9 Intro to -mo
- 10 Organ tune
- 11 "Goodness me!"
- 12 Trouble on the high seas, for some
- 13 Dwell on anxiously, with "over"
- 19 Group address
- 21 Transit extension?
- 23 Trains of "North America's Railroad"
- 24 B.C. CFL player
- 25 Prefix meaning "blue"
- 26 "Citizen" of cinema
- 30 \_\_\_ à la tête (headache: Fr.)
- 32 Too, in Trois-Rivières
- 33 Man. clock setting
- 35 Corkscrew pasta meaning "little wheels"

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
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56					57	58			59			60	61	
62				63					64					
65				66					67					

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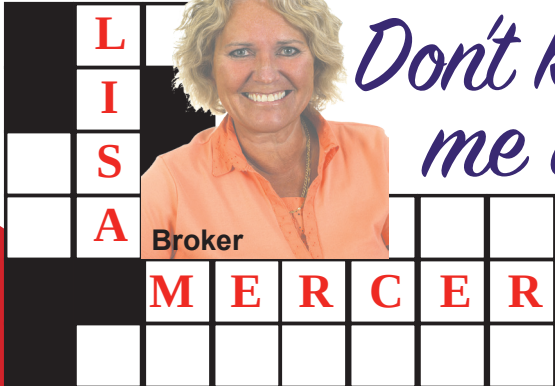
## SUDOKU

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	2		4				3	
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8	6						2	4
7	3							8
	8				7		4	
		6	5	1				9
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## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

6	4	1	8	7	5	9	3	2
7	3	5	2	9	1	6	8	4
2	9	8	4	3	6	7	1	5
9	6	2	5	1	8	4	7	3
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3	5	7	9	4	2	1	6	8
5	1	3	6	2	4	8	9	7
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4	7	9	1	8	3	2	5	6

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17	R	E	J	O	I	C	E	R		19	I	M	P	U	T	E		
20	B	L	A	N	C		21	E	A	U		23	B	I	C	E	P	
			24	T	S	25	A	R		26	H	27	W	Y	S			
28	A	29	S			31	I	S	32	S	H	E			33	D	U	I
36	S	H	A	D	E	D		39	P	U	T	40	T	P	U	T	T	
42	K	A	P	U	T		43	W	A	H		44	S	I	C	E	M	
45	T	W	I	C	E	46	S	H	Y		47	A	N	K	A	R	A	
48	O	L	D			49	O	A	S	50	I	S			51	T	O	Y
			52	B	M	O	C		54	N	A	55	R	C				
57	58	59				60	K	A	L		62	I	N	P	U	T		
66	D	E	P	U	T	67	Y		68	P	U	T	O	N	I	C	E	
70	J	U	I	C	E	D		71	I	C	E	T			72	T	L	C
73	S	P	E	E	D	S		74	E	K	E	S			75	Y	A	H



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### *Little Kennis Lake*



Perched on top of a Canadian Shield cliff with gorgeous lake views. 3-bdrm, 2.5 bath home/cottage has the perfect marriage of modern style with log cabin coziness. Bright, open concept main floor living. The chef of your family will love this kitchen. Large, lake-facing second floor mezzanine master bdrm and 4 pc ensuite. Double detached heated garage with loft. Plenty of opportunity to enjoy the beauty of Haliburton scenery from five different decks and large floating dock. You will get true full-year enjoyment from your very own lake house. **\$1,200,000**

### *Kashagawigamog Lake*



Imagine waking up every day to the beautiful view of Lake Kashagawigamog. Year-round waterfront living without paying lakefront taxes! This 3-bdrm, 2 bath home is located across the road from Haliburton's most popular Lake. Large open concept kitchen. Spacious living room finished with a granite fireplace. Excellent swimming for all ages with nice sand shoreline and wetslip boathouse across the road on municipal lands. **\$679,000**

### *Negaunee Lake*



Built in 1992 and situated on a year-round municipal road. The cottage features 3 bdrms and 1 bath, open concept kitchen, living rm and dining area with large picture windows. Many upgrades have been completed including new roof and siding. Outside the stairs lead you down to the waterfront and dock. Shoreline is rock and sand mix. Beautiful views of the undeveloped forest across the lake. Public access and boat launch for Miskwabi Lake is just a few minutes away. **\$489,900**

### *Salerno Lake*



4-bdrm, 2 bath cottage is designed for the whole family to enjoy. 102'ft of frontage. Bright open concept kitchen and dining room. Living area features a beautiful stone, wood burning fireplace. Massive 3 season enclosed screen porch with fantastic lakefront views. Many recent upgrades. Level backyard with ample space. Lakefront firepit with a low sloping terrain and stairs to the waterfront. Shallow entry to deep diving off dock. **\$749,500**

### *Chandler Point*



Experience the freedom of fractional ownership in Chandler Point on beautiful Kashagawigamog Lake. A fully furnished, 3 bdrm/2 bath cottage steps from the beach and outdoor activities. Bring your personal items and groceries to enjoy a maintenance free cottage life. Chandler Point offers a boat dock, canoes/kayaks for use, a playing field and campfire site located on the point to take in amazing views. Annual fee includes property taxes, maintenance and contribution to a reserve fund for ongoing improvements to the cottage and land. Allotted 5 weeks use through the year and shared with 9 owners. **\$55,700**

**COMMERCIAL**

### *The Lakeview Motel*

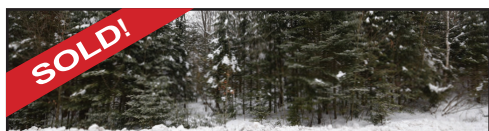


One of Haliburton's most popular Motels. The Lakeview Motel offers 14 motel rms and personal living quarters. Immaculate grounds and very well maintained buildings. Turnkey operation. Lovely inground pool, 4 hot tubs, horseshoe pit, dining room, BBQ's and much more offered to guests. Personal living quarters with 3 bdrms, 2 baths, 2 living rms and kitchen/dining area. Huge potential to expand on this 3.78-acre parcel. **\$1,950,000**

### *Vacant Lots*



**ANGEL ROAD**  
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